

# **Our Outhouse when I was growing Up**

## **By Charles Nelson**

When I was a child, we went through a period of time where we had no plumbing. Our water had to be hauled. We would get in the truck with large containers and go and fetch water every day. We would have to warm the water on one of the two stoves we had. We had a pot bellied stove in the living room and a kitchen stove. We would have a bath once a week and would have it in the kitchen. The water would be warmed up and filled this old metal tub. Everyone would use the same water.

Our toilet facilities was an old Outhouse in back of our house. We would have to go use the bathroom both night and day. It was spooky some nights to go and use the facility. Ours was a two holer. I can't remember if the two holes were the same size or if one was smaller for younger children. It was on a cement foundation which means it was probably a CCC built outhouse.

I can never remember using a magazine for the clean up afterward, we always had toilet paper. It was very rough, but that it what our bums were used to. There was no light out there and sometimes you didn't know if you'd meet some barnyard creature or other animal. It was sometimes very eerie attending to this body function.

In the winter you would have to trudge out to the facility. When you touched the toilet hole, it sometimes was so cold you could freeze your bottom and would be a shock to your system. Between snow getting in and the cold seat it was not a warming situation.

When we installed indoor plumbing, it was such a blessing.